

**BRISTOL WARREN REGIONAL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014**

The bi-monthly meeting of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee was held on Monday, May 12, 2014, in the cafeteria of Mt. Hope High School, 199 Chestnut Street in Bristol, RI. The Chairperson, Paul Silva, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05 PM.

Present: Paul Silva, Chair; John Bento, Vice Chairman; Karen A. Lynch, Secretary; Susan Rancourt, Treasurer; Marjorie McBride, William O'Dell, John P. Saviano and Lynn Wainwright; Melinda L. Thies, Superintendent; Mario J. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent; Mary Almeida, Director of Literacy; Leslie Anderson, Director of Pupil Personnel; and Pauline Silva, Director of Administration and Finance

Absent: Diana Campbell

OPENING BUSINESS

All present were invited to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC FORUM

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 7:06 p.m.

Chairman Silva stated, for the record, that an Executive Session will take place for the purpose of discussing personnel. No action will be taken.

Pursuant to Open Meeting Laws 42-46-5(a)(1) for the following:

1. Personnel Recommendations

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Saviano. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Wainwright made a motion to adjourn Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.; seconded by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ISSUES:

RECOMMENDATION S2014-28 A: PERSONNEL

A. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: That the School Committee confirm the recommendation of the Superintendent to appoint the following applicant to the extracurricular position listed below for the 2014-15 school year only (pending certification, funding and sufficient sign-ups to warrant running these programs):

FALL COACHES – MT. HOPE HIGH

Sport Position Coach

1. Football Head Coach Thomas J. DelSanto

MOTION: Mr. O'Dell made a motion to approve the personnel recommendation; seconded by Mrs. McBride. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION #S2014-29 – That the School Committee, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approve the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McBride communicated the reasons why she would be voting no on the current version of the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar being presented for approval this evening.

Mrs. Wainwright stated her reasons for changing her initial vote to approve the withdrawal of the February vacation which was reflected in the version of the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar presented for a vote at the last School Committee meeting.

Mrs. Lynch gave her rationale for proposing an amendment to the scheduling of the January and March Professional Days of the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar.

MOTION: Mrs. Lynch made a motion to amend the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar changing the January 14th Professional Development Day to January 16th and the March 3rd Professional Development Day to March 2nd or March 6th; seconded by Mr. Saviano.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Andrade stated that data, which was presented to Chairman Silva, showed high absentee rates among educators when a Professional Development Day occurred on a Friday. Professional Development Days are for the enrichment of educators. The Administrators believe that mid-week Professional Development Days provide the best outcome.

Dr. Andrade stated that if the Professional Development Day is to be changed in March for the 2014-2015 Academic Year, his preference would be March 6th.

Mr. O'Dell commented that Dr. Andrade has presented a rationale as to why the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar should not be amended.

Chairman Silva stated that when determining the academic year calendar, it is most important to consider the children and families that the District serves. Midweek Professional Development Days can cause hardships to those families who would then require midweek daycare for their children. Chairman Silva understands that

Professional Development Days are provided for the educators, but feels the District should ere on the side of what is best for children and families concerning scheduling of Professional Development Days.

The amendment to change the 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar changing the January 14th Professional Development Day to January 16th and the March 3rd Professional Development Day to March 6th passed with a 4-3 vote; Vice-Chairman Bento, Mrs. McBride and Mr. O'Dell dissenting.

The amended 2014-2015 Academic Year Calendar passed with a 5-2 vote; Vice-Chairman Bento and Mrs. McBride dissenting.

RECOMMENDATION #S2014-30 – That the School Committee approve the appointment of a Superintendent for the Bristol Warren Regional School District pursuant to the contract and terms as presented.

MOTION: Mrs. McBride made a motion to approve the appointment of a Superintendent for the Bristol Warren Regional School District pursuant to the contract and terms as presented; seconded by Mr. O'Dell.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Rancourt clarified, for the record, that because of the hiring process for superintendent, she would be voting no to approve the Superintendent appointment. She emphasized that her

dissenting vote was not a reflection on the candidate for the position.

The motion passed with a 6-1 vote; Mrs. Rancourt dissenting.

School Committee members congratulated Dr. Andrade for his appointment as Superintendent to the Bristol Warren Regional School District expressing their excitement of a long and successful relationship. Dr. Andrade commended the great legacy that Mrs. Thies leaves behind and he looks forward to continuing in that legacy growing strong partnerships with the School Committee, Town Councils, educators, parents and students. He thanked his family and the Administrators for their support.

Chairman Silva thanked Mr. Calouro and Mr. Stuart, Bristol Town Council members, for their support in being present for the vote to appoint the next superintendent of the Bristol Warren Regional School District.

Linda Rimoshytus asked for clarification on the Superintendent search process, specifically, why an in-house candidate was chosen vs. conducting an outside search.

Chairman Silva responded that the School Committee discussed the goals and vision for the District where it was determined that the Assistant Superintendent and the School Committee were in alignment. A consensus was reached by the School Committee that

the Assistant Superintendent was more than qualified and capable for the position of Superintendent. Rather than taking more time and expense to conduct a search, the School Committee believed that the best person for the position of Superintendent was available within the District. The School Committee believes the District was best served by putting Dr. Andrade, Assistant Superintendent, forward for the position of Superintendent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mrs. Wainwright requested scheduling a review of Professional Development Day attendance for the April 2015 School Committee Workshop.

ADJOURNMENT – 7:54 PM

MOTION: At 7:54 PM Mrs. McBride motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. O'Dell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Lynch, Secretary

/kd